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United States Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Intelligence Research Report

IRR-35 – October 29, 1991

Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan¹

Summary

As of October 29, 1991, China recognized and maintained diplomatic relations with 138 nations.² Since December 1990 China has exchanged diplomatic recognition with Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Brunei and has severed relations with the Central African Republic.

Taiwan currently is recognized by 29 nations, one more than in December 1990. Most of the nations recognizing Taiwan are in Central America and the Caribbean, although South Korea and South Africa also recognize Taiwan. In 1991 the Central African Republic recognized Taiwan; Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, and Nicaragua did so in 1990; Belize, Grenada, and Liberia, in 1989; and The Bahamas, in 1988.

¹ This report is an update of IRR-7, "Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan," November 29, 1990.

² China recognized the self-declared "state" of Palestine and established diplomatic relations with it on its declaration of "statehood" in November 1988. The US does not recognize the self-declared "state" of Palestine.

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A. Nations having diplomatic relations with China (138) (dates of recognition/establishment of relations in parentheses)

Alghanistan (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1955)

Albania (Nov. 1949/Nov. 1949)

Algeria (Dec. 1958/July 1962)³

Angola (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983)

Antigua and Barbuda (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983)

Argentina (Feb. 1972/Aug. 1972)

Australia (Dec. 1972/Aug. 1973)

Austria (May 1971/May 1971)

Bahrain (Apr. 1989/Apr. 1989)

Bangladesh (Oct. 1975/Jan. 1976)

Barbados (May 1977/Apr. 1978)

Belgium (Oct. 1971/Apr. 1971)

Benin (Nov. 1964/Dec. 1972)⁴

Bolivia (July 1985/July 1985)

Botswana (Jan. 1975/Apr. 1975)

Brazil (Aug. 1974/Dec. 1974)

Brunei (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)

Bulgaria (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

Burkina (Sept. 1973/Oct. 1973)

Burma (Dec. 1949/June 1950)

Burundi (Dec. 1963/Oct. 1971)⁵

Cambodia (July 1958/May 1970)⁶

Cameroon (Mar. 1971/Mar. 1971)

Canada (Oct. 1970/Oct. 1970)

Cape Verde (Apr. 1976/Oct. 1976)

Chad (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973)

Chile (Dec. 1970/Jan. 1971)

Colombia (Feb. 1980/June 1980)

Comoros (Nov. 1975/Oct. 1976)

Congo (Feb. 1964/Feb. 1964)

Côte d'Ivoire (Mar. 1983/Mar. 1983)

Cuba (Sept. 1960/Sept. 1960)

Cyprus (Jan. 1972/June 1972)

Czechoslovakia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

³ China recognized the Provisional Algerian Government in December 1958 and the Republic of Algeria in July 1962.

⁴ Formerly Dahomey. China recognized Dahomey in November 1964. Relations were severed in January 1966 and reestablished in December 1972.

⁵ Burundi was recognized initially in December 1963. Relations were suspended in January 1965 and reestablished in October 1971.

⁶ China recognizes the National Government of Cambodia (formerly the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea), not the State of Cambodia (formerly the People's Republic of Kampuchea). Beijing plans to send a mission to Phnom Penh accredited to the Supreme National Council.

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Denmark (Jan. 1950/May 1950)	Kenya (Dec. 1963/Jan. 1964)
Djibouti (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1980)	Kiribati (June 1980/June 1980)
Ecuador (Jan. 1980/July 1980)	Korea, North (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
Egypt (May 1956/May 1956)	Kuwait (Mar. 1971/Oct. 1971)
Equatorial Guinea (Oct. 1970/Dec. 1970)	
	Laos (June 1962/Sept. 1962)
Estonia (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)	Latvia (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)
Ethiopia (Dec. 1970/Dec. 1970)	Lebanon (Nov. 1971/Nov. 1971)
Fiji (Nov. 1975/Apr. 1976)	Libya (Apr. 1978/Aug. 1978) ¹⁰
Finland (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1950)	
France (Jan. 1964/Jan. 1964)	Lithuania (Sept. 1991/Sept. 1991)
	Luxembourg (Nov. 1972/Dec. 1973)
Gabon (Apr. 1974/June 1974)	Madagascar (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973)
Gambia, The (Dec. 1974/Jan. 1975)	Malaysia (Nov. 1971/May 1974)
Germany (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972) ⁷	
Ghana (July 1960/Feb. 1972) ⁸	Maldives (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972)
	Mali (Oct. 1960/Oct. 1960)
Greece (June 1972/Nov. 1972)	Malta (Jan. 1972/June 1972)
Guinea (Oct. 1959/Oct. 1959)	Marshall Islands (Nov. 1990/Nov. 1990)
Guyana (Feb. 1972/June 1975)	
Hungary (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)	Mauritania (July 1965/July 1965)
	Mauritius (Apr. 1968/May 1972)
Iceland (Dec. 1971/May 1972)	Mexico (Feb. 1972/May 1972)
India (Dec. 1949/Aug. 1950)	Micronesia, Federated States of
Indonesia (Apr. 1950-Aug. 1990) ⁹	(Aug. 1989/Aug. 1989)
Iran (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971)	
Iraq (July 1958/Aug. 1958)	Mongolia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)
	Morocco (Oct. 1958/Nov. 1958)
Ireland (June 1979/Feb. 1980)	Mozambique (June 1975/June 1975)
Italy (Nov. 1970/Nov. 1970)	Namibia (Mar. 1990/Mar. 1990)
Jamaica (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973)	
Japan (Sept. 1972/Sept. 1972)	Nepal (Aug. 1955/Aug. 1955)
Jordan (Apr. 1977/June 1977)	Netherlands (Mar. 1950/Nov. 1954)

⁷ China exchanged recognition with the German Democratic Republic in October 1949 and with the Federal Republic of Germany in October 1972.

⁸ Ghana was recognized in July 1960. Relations were suspended in November 1966 and resumed in February 1972.

⁹ Diplomatic relations with Indonesia were established in April 1950 but were frozen in 1965. Relations were resumed in August 1990.

¹⁰ Libya unilaterally announced recognition of China in 1971, but formal relations were not established until the representatives of Taiwan departed Tripoli in 1978.

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New Zealand (Dec. 1972/Mar. 1973)

Niger (July 1974/Aug. 1974)

Nigeria (Feb. 1971/Feb. 1971)

Norway (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1954)

Oman (Dec. 1978/Dec. 1978)

Pakistan (Jan. 1950/May 1951)

Papua New Guinea (Oct. 1976/Oct. 1980)

Peru (Aug. 1971/Nov. 1971)

Philippines (June 1975/Sept. 1975)

Poland (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

Portugal (Feb. 1979/May 1979)

Qatar (July 1988/July 1988)

Romania (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

Rwanda (Nov. 1971/May 1972)

San Marino (May 1971)¹¹

Sao Tome and Principe (July 1975/Apr. 1976)

Saudi Arabia (July 1990/July 1990)

Senegal (Dec. 1971/May 1972)

Seychelles (June 1976/Mar. 1977)

Sierra Leone (July 1971/July 1971)

Singapore (Oct. 1990/Oct. 1990)

Somalia (Dec. 1960/Dec. 1960)

Soviet Union (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

Spain (Mar. 1973/June 1973)

Sri Lanka (Jan. 1950/Feb. 1957)

Sudan (Dec. 1958/Dec. 1958)

Suriname (May 1976/Jan. 1977)

Sweden (Jan. 1950/May 1950)

Switzerland (Jan. 1950/Sept. 1950)

Syria (Aug. 1956/Aug. 1956)

Tanzania (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964)¹²

Thailand (July 1975/Sept. 1975)

Togo (Sept. 1972/Nov. 1972)

Trinidad and Tobago (June 1974/Apr. 1975)

Tunisia (Jan. 1964/Oct. 1971)¹³

Turkey (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971)

Uganda (Oct. 1962/Oct. 1962)

United Arab Emirates (Nov. 1984/Nov. 1984)

United Kingdom (June 1950/June 1954)

United States (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1979)

Uruguay (Feb. 1988/Feb. 1988)

Vanuatu (Mar. 1982/Mar. 1982)

Venezuela (June 1974/Sept. 1974)

Vietnam (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1950)¹⁴

Western Samoa (Nov. 1976/Nov. 1976)

Yemen (Aug. 1956/Sept. 1956)¹⁵

Yugoslavia (Oct. 1949/Jan. 1955)

Zaire (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973)

Zambia (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964)

Zimbabwe (Apr. 1980/June 1980)

¹¹ San Marino has only consular-level relations with China.

¹² China recognized Tanganyika in December 1961, Zanzibar in January 1964, and Tanzania in October 1964.

¹³ Relations with Tunisia were suspended in 1967 and reestablished in October 1971.

¹⁴ Prior to the July 1976 formation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, China had separate relations with North Vietnam (January 1950) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (June 1969).

¹⁵ China established diplomatic relations with the Yemen Arab Republic in September 1956 and with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in January 1968.

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B. Notes on special cases

1. **Bhutan** recognized China based on its UN vote in October 1971 to admit China and expel representatives of Taiwan. Bhutan and China have no official relations, however.
2. **Belize** recognized China in February 1987 and maintained relations until October 1989. Following Belize's recognition of Taiwan in October 1989, China "severed" ties with Belize.
3. The **Central African Republic**, formerly the Central African Empire, recognized China in September 1964. Relations were suspended in January 1966 and resumed in August 1976. Following the CAR's recognition of Taiwan in July 1991, China "suspended" relations with the CAR.
4. **Grenada** recognized China in October 1985 and maintained relations until August 1989. Following Grenada's recognition of Taiwan in July 1989, China "severed" ties with Grenada.
5. **Guinea-Bissau** recognized China in April 1974 and maintained relations until May 1990. Following Guinea-Bissau's recognition of Taiwan in May 1990, China "severed" ties with Guinea-Bissau.
6. **Israel** recognized China in January 1950 but has not been recognized by China.
7. **Lesotho** recognized China in April 1983 and maintained relations until April 1990. Following Lesotho's recognition of Taiwan in April 1990, China "severed" ties with Lesotho.
8. **Liberia** recognized China in February 1977 and maintained relations until October 1989. Following Liberia's recognition of Taiwan in October 1989, China "suspended" relations with Liberia.
9. **Nicaragua** switched recognition from Taiwan to China in December 1985 and maintained relations with China until November 1990. Following Nicaragua's resumption of relations with Taiwan in November 1990, China "suspended" ties with Nicaragua.

C. Nations maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan (29)

Bahamas, The	Guinea-Bissau
Belize	Haiti
Central African Republic	Honduras
Costa Rica ¹⁶	Korea, South ¹⁷
Dominica	Lesotho
Dominican Republic	Liberia
El Salvador	Malawi
Grenada	Nauru
Guatemala	Nicaragua

¹⁶ The official Chinese Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Costa Rica since April 1979.

¹⁷ China and South Korea announced establishment of nongovernmental trade offices on October 20, 1990, under the auspices of the Korea Trade Promotion Corporation (KOTRA) and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), respectively.

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Panama¹⁸

Paraguay

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Saint Lucia

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Solomon Islands¹⁹

South Africa

Swaziland

Tonga

Tuvalu

Vatican City

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¹⁸ China's Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Panama since May 1973.

¹⁹ Taiwan upgraded its mission in the Solomon Islands from Consulate General to Embassy on September 16, 1985.